

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT L 00725 101402Z

43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

IO-13 /085 W

----- 071494

R 101100Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6074

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 310

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 0725

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MP, OAU, UNSC, UK, FR, MZ, IS, ZA, SF, RH, PINS,
PINT, MOPS, MARR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM'S AUGUST 6 PRESS CONFERENCE.

SUMMARY. AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS ARRIVAL BACK IN MAURITIUS AUGUST 6, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM TOOK QUITE MODERATE STANCES ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN AN ARMED STRUGGLE. HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE NEED FOR PEACE AND HARMONY RATHER THAN A BLOODBATH. ON DOMESTIC ISSUES THE PRIME MINISTER DEPLORED POLITICAL VIOLENCE, REITERATED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT L 00725 101402Z

THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD SOON, AND PROMISED A NEW EFFORT

TO HELP THE REPATRIATED DIEGO GARCIA'S.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS ARRIVAL HOME ON AUGUST 6 FROM A TRIP TO BRITAIN AND FRANCE, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM EXPLAINED HIS TRIP AS RESULTING FROM HIS WISH " TO DO SOME RETHINKING ON THE PRIORITIES OF THE DELICATE PROBLEMS" DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT OAU CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE HAS HAD TALKS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS IN BRITAIN, WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF BRITAIN, AND WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D' ESTAIN. RAMGOOLAM SAID HE HAD FOCUSED ON THE DELICATE PROBLEM OF PEACE IN AFRICA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. UNHAPPILY THINGS ARE VERY DELICATE AT THIS MOMENT. HE MENTIONED DR. KISSINGER'S TALKS WITH CALLAGHAN IN LONDON (SOME PAPERS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED THAT RAMGOOLAM HAS SAID HE HIMSELF HAD HAD A MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER IN LONDON) AND COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA WILL BE RESOLVED "IN A SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE, GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING". RAMGOOLAM STATED THAT IT IS NOW TIME FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND MEN SUCH AS IAN SMITH "TO TAKE THE PATH THAT HAS BEEN INDICATED BY GREAT LEADERS LIKE KENNETH KAUNDA, ON OF THE MOST MODERATE MEN AND ON WHO WORKS ON GANDHIAN PRINCIPLES."

2. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD DISPLAYED A GREAT DEAL OF COMPREHENSION REGARDING THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING AFRICA. THERE HAD BEEN "A CERTAIN MALAISE" AMONG SOME PEOPLE CONCERNING THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE OAU ON MAYOTTE AND DJIBOUTI

.
AS HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, RAMGOOLAM SAID, IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO THINK THAT A MEETING OF GREAT LEADERS WHO HAD FIGHTED FOR THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA COULD BE HELD IN MAURITIUS WITHOUT TOUCHING ON THE PROBLEMS OF MAYOTTE AND DJIBOUTI. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THESE PROBLEMS WITH GISCARD D'ESTAING FRANKLY AND HONESTLY, AND HE HAD ALSO RAISED BILATERAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE MARKETING OF MAURITIAN PRODUCTS IN FRANCE, FOR WHICH HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE A SPEEDY SOLUTION. RAMGOOLAM SAID GISCARD WILL VISIT MAURITIUS NEXT YEAR FOLLOWING A VISIT TO KENYA.

3. TURNING TO DOMESTIC CONCERNS, RAMGOOLAM MENTIONED POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN MAURITIUS. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE RECENT INCIDENT AT TRANQUEBAR IN WHICH PMSD LEADER DUVAL HAD BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PORT L 00725 101402Z

ASSAULTED. RAM SAID HE WAS "VERY UPSET" TO HEAR ABOUT THIS INCIDENT, FOR MAURITIUS IS A "VERY CIVILIZED SOCIETY. IT IS AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD. WE ARE PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT RACES, DIFFERENT CREEDS, WHO HAVE BEEN FLUNG ON THIS ISLAND TO WORK FOR SALVATION. WE MUST TRY TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS WITHOUT HAVING RECOURSE TO VIOLENCE. WE HAVE PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE OF UNDERSTANDING AND RACIAL HARMONY AND OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN FREE FROM ANY KIND OF VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS. WE HOPE THIS WILL CONTINUE." NOTING THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD

SHORTLY, THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES, THEIR FOLLOWERS AND PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO USE VIOLENT LANGUAGE IN ORDER TO CREATE UNREST "NOT TO START BEATING EACH OTHER" AND TO UNDERSTAND THAT "THE BEST ASSETS OF CIVILIZED SOCIETY ARE RACIAL HARMONY AND UNDERSTANDING".

4. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE REPORTERS PRESENT. ASKED IF HE HAD RAISED WITH BRITISH LEADERS THE QUESTION OF ARMED INTERVENTION BY OAU MEMBERS IN RHODESIA, RAM SAID THAT HIS MISSION HAD BEEN ONE OF PEACE. ARMED STRUGGLE, HE SAID, MUST BE THE LAST RESORT OF THOSE WHO HAVE FAILED TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. "THE WORLD IS NOT YET COMPLETELY BANKRUPT AND INTELLECTUALLY WE CAN STILL MEET AROUND A TABLE AND FIND SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS, WITHOUT KILLING PEOPLE." ASKED IF HE HAD RAISED WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT THE QUESTION OF MILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, RAMGOOLAM SAID THAT THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM. "WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DIEGO GARCIA, THERE IS NOTHING TROUBLING US. THE INDIAN OCEAN GIVES ASYLUM TO EVERYONE, TO ALL THE GREAT POWERS. IT IS A FREE OCEAN, SO TO SPEAK NOT FOR FREE-BOOTERS, BUT FOR THOSE WHO WANT PEACE AND HARMONY AND HELP TO MAKE IT A ZONE OF PEACE, AS LAID DOWN BY THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT COLOMBO."

5. WHEN A JOURNALIST NOTED THAT RAMGOOLAM'S EVOCATION OF PEACE AND HARMONY DOES NOT REFLECT THE PRESENT TEMPERAMENT OF AFRICA, IN WHICH EVEN CERTAIN MODERATE COUNTRIES FAVOR AN ARMED STRUGGLE, RAMGOOLAM REPLIED THAT ALL POSSIBILITIES ARE BEING EXPLORED, AND THE BASIS PRINCIPLE IS PEACE AND HARMONY RATHER THAN A BLOODBATH. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE DECISION OF MOZAMBIQUE TO RECEIVE A SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION, FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER RESPONDED FOR RAMGOOLAM THAT THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH GOM POLICY. "WE WANT TO TO KEEP ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES OPEN."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PORT L 00725 101402Z

6. A JOURNALIST MENTIONED RUMORS THAT PARLIAMENT WILL BE DISSOLVED IN SEPTEMBER AND ELECTIONS HELD IN OCTOBER. RAMGOOLAM DECLINED TO BE PINNED DOWN AND WOULD NOT GO BEYOND SAYING THAT "THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN DUE COURSE".

7. WITH RESPECT TO THE RECENT DEMONSTRATION BY DIEGO GARCIA REPATRIATES IN FRONT OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE, A JOURNALIST ASKED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR REHABILITATING THIS GROUP AND FOR PUBLISHING THE PROSSER REPORT. RAM SAID THAT THE REPORT WOULD BE PUBLISHED AND A SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND TO THIS PROBLEM. HE SAID PROPOSALS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GROUP BUT THEY HAD BEEN REJECTED. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SITUATION WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN WASHINGTON LAST YEAR. FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER ADDED THAT THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN THAT THE DIEGO GARCIA'S HAVE REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANY PROPOSALS MADE TO THEM.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT NOW MUST LOOK FOR OTHER ALTERNATIVES AND THAT IT IS LOOKING AFTER THEIR INTERESTS.

8. SIR HAROLD WALTER, WHO ARRIVED WITH RAMGOOLAM, GAVE A BRIEF REPORT ON HIS ATTENDANCE AT TWO RECENT SESSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL. HIS EXPLANATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE SESSION ON THE ENTEBBE RAID WAS MODERATE AND JUDICIOUS. HE EXPLANIND THAT THERE WERE TWO POINTS OF VIEW PUT FORTH AT THE UNSC. ONE POSITION FOCUSED ON THE CLEAR VIOLATION OF UGANDA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, WHILE THERE WERE OTHERS WHO STRESSED THE RIGHT OF A STATE TO ACT TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS IN DANGER EVEN FAR BEYOND ITS OWN BOUNDARIES.

9. SIR HAROLD GAVE A RATHER DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MORE RECENT SESSION ON ZAMBIA'S COMPLAINT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS WILLING TO JOIN IN A CONSENSUS BUT THAT ZAMBIA HAD INSISTED ON BRINGING THE MATTER TO A VOTE, WHICH CAUSED THE UNITED STATES TO ABSTAIN. HE WAID HE HAD HAD A LONG EXCHANGE WITH AMBASSADOR SCRANTON, AN THAT IN HIS OWN OPINION THE STATEMENT THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE IN EXPLAINING ITS ABSTENTION HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY MODERATED FRON WHAT IT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN. (SIR HAROLD APPEARED TO TAKE CREDIT FOR SOME OF THIS CHANGE). SIR HAROLD WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF THE UNITED STATES, AND STRESSED THE POINT THAT HE SIMPLY HAD TO GO ALONG WITH ZAMBIA'S INSISTENCE ON HAVING A RECORD VOTE RATHER THAN A CONSENSUS.

KEELEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 PORT L 00725 101402Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTL00725
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760307-0669
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760869/aaaachvr.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM'S AUGUST 6 PRESS CONFERENCE. SUMMARY. AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS ARRIVAL BACK IN MAURITIUS AUGUST 6, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM TOOK
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MP, UK, FR, MZ, IS, ZA, SF, RH, XA, OAU, UNSC, (RAMGOOLAM, SEEWOOSAGUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006